

July 15, 1999

6303 '99 JUL 22 A9:44

Ms. Jane E. Henney, M.D., Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 14-71
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038,
"Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

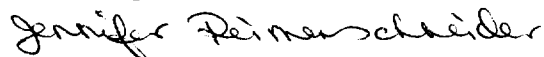
Dear Ms. Henney:

As a volunteer for various environmental and public education groups, I spend a good portion of my time encouraging people to purchase healthy, organically produced foods. I am therefore extremely concerned about the probability that labeling requirements for irradiated food may become more lax. Most people do not want to eat irradiated foods, as this process strips many of the nutrients from foods, and may have carcinogenic effects. It is my understanding that the irradiation process also creates radioactive waste products, of which we certainly have enough already.

Those people who may choose to consume irradiated foods or ingredients certainly have the right to know what they are ingesting. It is outrageous to consider misleading labeling which will essentially hide the fact that certain foods have been treated with radiation. Even the radura symbol alone is not enough for the average consumer - there should be written disclosure as to the full meaning of this symbol, in the form of labeling or posting of information near the appropriate food items.

Consumers have a right to know how their food has been processed. Please do what you can to see that labeling requirements for irradiated foods are not weakened. Thank you.

Sincerely,



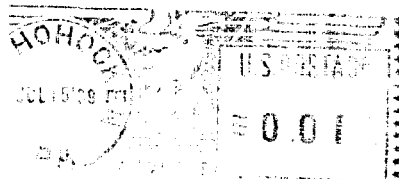
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